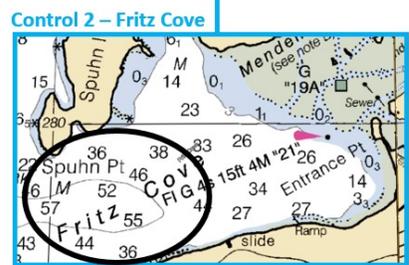
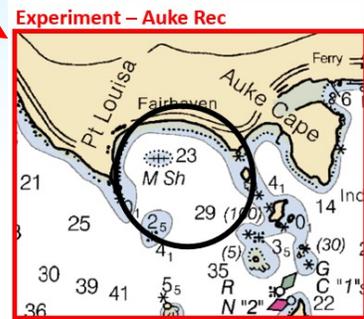
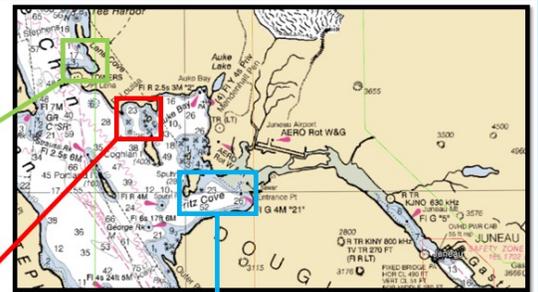
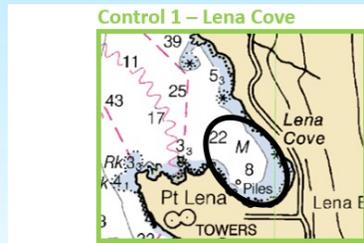




Harbor Porpoise Monitoring in Southeast Alaska

February 28 – March 11, 2022



Maps showing the experimental and two control sites where harbor porpoise will be acoustically monitored and the shore-based location where a theodolite will be used to monitor their surface movement and behavior.

Who is conducting the research?

Scientists from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center’s Marine Mammal and Auke Bay Laboratories along with personnel from the Alaska Region Office.

What is the research objective?

During March-June 2022, we will use passive acoustic moorings and visual observations to monitor the presence and movement of harbor porpoise. Data collected in 2022 will be used to determine the best placement of passive acoustic moorings in 2023 for an experiment to test the effectiveness of acoustic pingers in deterring harbor porpoise.

Where is the research being conducted?

Four passive acoustic moorings will be deployed by vessel; two within Auke Bay (experimental site) and one at each at Lena and Fritz Coves (control sites), located near Juneau, Alaska.

Why is the data important? How will data be used?

Serious injury and mortality of harbor porpoise in Southeast Alaska’s commercial fisheries is a significant conservation and management concern. Pingers are effective in deterring harbor porpoise from fishing nets for some fisheries, and may be an effective way to reduce harbor porpoise bycatch in Southeast Alaska. Data collected during this project will provide important information on the effectiveness of pingers in this environment.

Schedule for the 2021 Harbor Porpoise Monitoring Project

Team Arrives in Juneau, Alaska	February 28th
Begin weekly COVID testing (continues throughout project)	March 1st
Theodolite training	March 2nd
Construction of acoustic moorings	March 6th
Mooring deployment	March 8th
Setting up monitoring station and observer training	March 9th
End of project	March 11th

What steps are you taking to prevent spread of COVID-19? (bulleted list, cite only high level activities from SOP)

- All team members are fully vaccinated
- The team will self-monitor for COVID symptoms and follow rules regarding personal infection controls (masking, hygiene, distance, when possible) and test every 2-3 days using an antigen test.

How do you plan to communicate research results? (e.g., outreach document, webstory, radio interview, community meeting, etc.)

Results from this project will be written up as a field report and used to inform the second phase of the project.



Gina M. Raimondo
U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for
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Janet Coit
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